been issuing advisories to the State Governments from time to time to ensure that police officials do not abuse their authority and their conduct instills confidence in the minds of the public.

Bride burning cases in the Country

†338. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many cases of bride burning from various parts of the country have come to light;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to take effective steps to check this practice; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, in what manner Government propose to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the VIIth Schedule to the Constitution of India. The registration investigation, detection as well as prevention of crimes including crime against women is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. Hence, State Governments/Union Territories are required to take necessary action on the cases of violence under the Dowry Prohibition Act and under the relevant provisions of the IPC/ CrPC.

The Central Government has from time to time advised the State Governments and the Union Territories to take preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures needed in conncetion with atrocities on women. These measures include the appointment of Dowry Prohibition officers, setting up of separate women's cells in police stations, wider recruitment of women police officers, gender sensitisation of police personnel, setting up of district level Committee for the protection of women's rights etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Department of Women and Child Development and the Social Welfare Board implement information and mass education programmes linked with advocacy and legal literacy to generate public awareness about the issues concerning women and children including the evils of dowry. NGO's activist group at the grassroots and local panchayats are also involved in awareness camps.

The Government of India has adopted a National Policy for the Empowerment of Women. The policy reaffirms Government's commitment to deal with all forms of violence against women.

Since denial of the share of family property to the girls is one of the causes for the demand of dowry the Central Government has advised the State Governments/Union Territories to *inter alia* amend Section 6 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 with a view to confer co-parency rights in a co-parency property for the daughter of a coparcenar in a Joint Hindu Family on par with their male counterparts. The State Governments of Andhra Pradeh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have amended Section 6 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 to give women rights for family property.

The National Commission for Women (NCW) receives complaints relating to dowry atrocity cases including dowry deaths. These cases are processed by the Commission under Section 10(I) (f) (g) abd 10 (f) of the National Commission for Women Act and are referred to appropriate authorities such as the police/district magistrates, for appropriate action. The Commission sponsers awareness programmes including legal literacy programme. The Commission launched a Dehej Mukti Abhiyan in 1998 to generate awareness among the youth. It also sponsors the 'Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalat' under the Legal Services Authorities Act were disputes are resolved through meditation.